(almost without changing a word) on my return to Cuverville.[15] Em. joined me in Algiers more than a month after my departure. That month of solitude put me back on my feet; then the calm life that we lived together left nothing but good memories. In Algiers, and during the rest of the trip, I was able to read the first volume of Nietzsche's *Correspondence,* and that book contributed not a little to my equilibrium. In Algiers also I read *Les Vacances Sun jeune homme sage?*[Q] a rather ordinary book that had just appeared, and the delightful *Enfant a la balustrade™* which I immediately reread to Em. Then, as soon as we reached Biskra, we began *Der Geheimnissvoll* by Tieck, which I found in the hotel library. Each of us separately read the dialogue *<e Vom Tragischen"* which Bahr had just sent me.[18] In Rome we bravely launched into *Michael Kohlhaas,* which we did not finish until Paris, when we immediately took up *Die Marquise von O.* . . .

We had frightful weather for crossing Sicily and did not see the sun again until Rome. In Naples, or rather at Sorrento, I went to see the mysterious Vollmceller (I have described that visit at some length in a letter to Drouin). In Rome I found Maurice Denis, but Mithouard was always at his elbow and I did not see him as much as I should have wished. On the other hand, I saw Jean Schlumberger every day and, as we treated each other with ever greater confidence, he came to be one of my inner circle of friends.

[15] *Le Renoncement au voyage (Renouncing Travel),* published in 1906.

[16] *A Nice Young Man's Holidays,* by Henri de Regnier (1904).

[17] *The Child at the Banister,* by Rene Boylesve (1903).

[18] An essay "On the Tragic" by Hermann Bahr.